

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
21 May 2004 (21.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/042095 A1

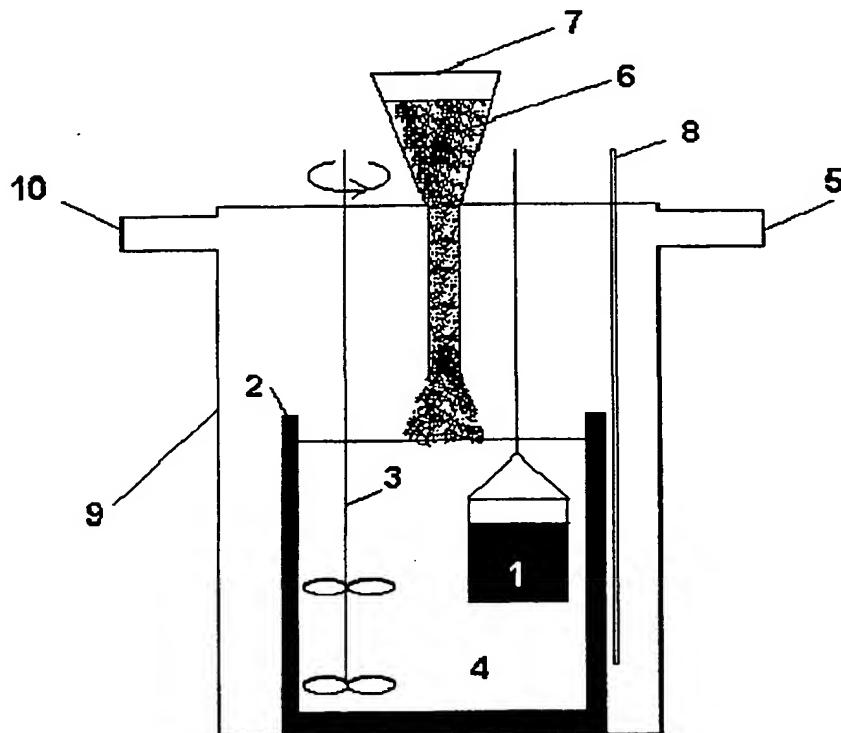
- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: C22B 34/20, 5/04, B22F 9/20
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/BR2003/000122
- (22) International Filing Date: 27 August 2003 (27.08.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: PI0204587-7 4 November 2002 (04.11.2002) BR
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NIOBIUM AND/OR TANTALUM POWDER WITH LARGE SURFACE AREA



(57) Abstract: The present invention refers to a process for production of a powder of niobium and/or tantalum having high purity, large specific surface area, controlled contents of oxygen and nitrogen, and a morphology that is adequate for use in the manufacture of capacitors, characterized by including one sole step of reduction of a controlled layer of niobium and/or tantalum oxide ($NbxOy$, and/or $TaxOy$, where $x = 1$ to 2 and $y = 1$ to 5) deliberately formed over particles of metallic niobium and/or tantalum and/or hydrides thereof of adequate purity, by alkali metals or earth alkali metals and/or hydrides thereof in a bath of molten salts followed by a step of dissolution of the salt in an aqueous solution for recovery of the niobium and/or tantalum powder. These particles produced using the said process have a small size, large surface area and a sponge-like morphology, being thereby adequate for the production of capacitors.

WO 2004/042095 A1